

Attorney Docket No. LWEP:125US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/711,188
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2006
Date: January 24, 2007

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A microscope, comprising:

a microscope stand comprising a sidewall that is defined by the microscope and includes an elongated opening;
a microscope stage;
at least one objective that, in a working position, defines an optical axis; and
a focusing device having at least a first shaft and at least one operating element that is provided on the microscope stand, wherein the operating element generates a relative motion between the objective and the microscope stage in the direction of the optical axis and the operating element sits on the first shaft of the focusing device and the side wall, and wherein the focusing device is modifiable in terms of its position within the microscope stand in such a way that ~~The microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein~~ the spatial arrangement of the at least one operating element on a side wall of the microscope stand is adjustable substantially in the vertical and horizontal direction by means of a curved elongated hole.

Claim 6 (original): The microscope as defined in Claim 5, wherein the focusing device is equipped with a pivot axis about which the focusing device is pivotable, together with the at least one operating element, in such a way that the position of the operating element on the at least one side wall of the microscope stand is adjustable.

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Claim 7 (original): The microscope as defined in Claim 6, wherein a second shaft arranged substantially coaxially with the pivot axis is provided, and is embodied in such a way that a rotary motion of the first shaft is transferable by way of the operating element to the second shaft.

Claim 8 (original): The microscope as defined in Claim 7, wherein the rotary motion is transferable between the first shaft of the operating element and the second shaft in positively engaged fashion.

Claim 9 (original): The microscope as defined in Claim 8, wherein at least two gears are provided, one of the gears preferably being respectively arranged nonrotatably on each shaft, and the gears being in meshing engagement with one another.

Claim 10 (original): The microscope as defined in Claim 9, wherein the rotary motion of the second shaft is transferable in positively engaged fashion to a mechanism which generates the relative motion between the objective and the microscope stage in the direction of the optical axis of the objective.

Claim 11 (original): The microscope as defined in Claim 10, wherein at least one further intermediate shaft is provided which serves for positively engaged transfer of the rotary motion of the first shaft to the mechanism which generates the relative motion between the objective and the microscope stage in the direction of the optical axis of the objective.

Claim 12 (original): The microscope as defined in Claim 10, wherein the mechanism comprises a toothed rack that is in meshing engagement with the second shaft or with the axis associated with the support carriage.

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Claims 13 to 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): A microscope, comprising a microscope stand; a microscope stage; at least one objective that, in a working position, defines an optical axis; a focusing device having at least one operating element that is provided on the microscope stand, wherein the operating element generates a relative motion between the objective and the microscope stage in the direction of the optical axis and the operating element sits on a first shaft of the focusing device and a side wall is defined by the microscope, wherein the focusing device is modifiable in terms of its position within the microscope stand in such a way that the spatial arrangement of the at least one operating element on the side wall of the microscope stand is adjustable substantially in the vertical and horizontal direction by means of a curved elongated hole.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The microscope as defined in Claim 20, wherein the focusing device is equipped with a pivot axis about which the focusing device is pivotable, together with the at least one operating element, in such a way that the position of the operating element on the at least one side wall of the microscope stand is adjustable.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The microscope as defined in Claim 21, wherein a second shaft arranged substantially coaxially with the pivot axis is provided, and is embodied in such a way that a rotary motion of the first shaft is transferable by way of the operating element to the second shaft.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The microscope as defined in Claim 22, wherein the rotary motion is transferable between the first shaft of the operating element and the second shaft in positively engaged fashion.

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Claim 24 (previously presented): The microscope as defined in Claim 23, wherein at least two gears are provided, one of the gears preferably being respectively arranged nonrotatably on each shaft, and the gears being in meshing engagement with one another.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The microscope as defined in Claim 24, wherein the rotary motion of the second shaft is transferable in positively engaged fashion to a mechanism which generates the relative motion between the objective and the microscope stage in the direction of the optical axis of the objective.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The microscope as defined in Claim 25, wherein at least one further intermediate shaft is provided which serves for positively engaged transfer of the rotary motion of the first shaft to the mechanism which generates the relative motion between the objective and the microscope stage in the direction of the optical axis of the objective.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The microscope as defined in Claim 25, wherein the mechanism comprises a toothed rack that is in meshing engagement with the second shaft or with the axis associated with the support carriage.